

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

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NATURAL LAW IN THE SPIRITUAL WORLD. By HENRY DRUMMOND, F.R.S.E., F.G.S. 12mo, pp. xxiv, 414. James Rot.

The purpose of this volume is to show that the laws which govern the natural world are in many cases identical with laws which may be discerned in the spiritual world; the two spheres are so intimately connected that precisely the same orderly sequence of phenomena runs through both, and both are thereby brought within the domain of exact science. The idea of analogies and correspondences between earthly and heavenly things has always had an attraction for devout and philosophical minds, but Mr. Drummond goes much further than his predecessors. He recognizes the weakness of the argument from analogy, and defines his position with clearness and emphasis to be "not that the Spiritual Laws are analogous to the Natural Laws, but that they are the same Laws." It is not a question of analogy, but of Identity. The Natural Laws are not the shadows or images of the Spiritual in the same sense as autumn is emblematical of Decay, or the falling leaf of Death. The Natural Laws, as the Law of Continuity, will well warn us, do not stop with the visible and then give place to a new set of Laws bearing a strong similitude to them. The Laws of the invisible are the same Laws, projections of the natural not supernatural. Analogous Phenomena are not the fruit of parallel Laws, but of the same Laws—Laws which at one end as it may be dealing with matter, at the other end with Spirit." To establish this theory, the author takes the laws of biogenesis, degeneration, growth, death, etc., and traces the operation of each, first in the natural and afterward in the supernatural sphere. As a sample of his method, we may refer to the chapter on Biogenesis. The doctrine of spontaneous generation, after much discussion and experiment, is generally abandoned, "and it is now recognized on every hand that life can only come from the touch of life." This is the application of the law in the natural world. Projected into the spiritual domain, the same law is expressed in the doctrine of Regeneration: the spiritual life is the gift of the Living Spirit, and it cannot be developed from the mere natural man. By adopting this view of the continuity of the law, Mr. Drummond believes that the Christian plants himself on a firm basis and meets one of the gravest difficulties of the advocates of Natural Religion. We might offer a still more striking illustration of his argument if we could spare the room to examine his views on the continuity of animal parasites with Evangelicals, and of hermit-crabs with Roman Catholics but perhaps one specimen is enough.

The fallacy of the book is obvious. It is the fallacy which Lord Bacon describes under the term "idols of the market," wherein words expressing only a common and often erroneous conception impose upon the understanding if they were also true. To borrow his own figure, at one end of his continuous law he is dealing with the certain and observed facts of physical science, while at the other he is dealing with words, expressing not facts cognizable by the senses, but dogmas and metaphysical conclusions. As a parallel his exercise may be more or less ingenious, but it is of no avail as a defence of Christianity, because when the sceptic attempts to follow up the alleged continuation of the natural law he finds that from the admitted phenomena of the origin of physical life it proceeds to the region of faith where there are no phenomena whatever upon which to base a law, and no standing-ground unless one assumes the whole matter in dispute. This is effect what Mr. Drummond does. He proves Regeneration by assuming the spiritual law, and proves the spiritual law by assuming Regeneration.

DARWINISM IN MORALS AND OTHER ESSAYS. By FRANCES POWELL CORBETT. 12mo, pp. 422. Boston: George H. Ellis.

Miss Cobbe begins the clever essay which gives title to this volume by the following pointed sentence: "It is a singular fact that whenever we find out how anything is done, our first conclusion seems to be that God did not do it." This illustrates her philosophical position. She is classed among progressive liberal thinkers, but she is firmly convinced of the truth and necessity of religion that she would be ready to make a new one rather than the world should go without. Her paper on "Darwinism in Morals" is an answer to the hypothesis as propounded by Mr. Darwin of the evolution of conscience from purely animal instincts, a doctrine which she regards as fatal to all moral purity. She founds her argument principally upon the problem of repeatability, distinguishing acutely between remorse and mere regret, and maintaining her side of the discussion with force, clearness and admirable temper. The same subject is briefly touched upon again in the concluding essay of the volume. All the other papers refer to questions of religion or psychology, such as the Devil in whom Miss Cobbe does not believe, Hereditary Piety, Dreams, etc. They are collected from *The Theological Review* and other periodicals, in which they appeared at various times during the past eighteen years.

THE PRINCESS: A Medley. By ALFRED TENNYSON. Illustrated, pp. 223. James R. Osgood & Co.

This holiday edition of Mr. Tennyson's gracious poem is admirably illustrated by those American artists to whom we have been accustomed to look for the most poetic imagination and the greatest delicacy and accuracy in drawing. The results of their labors are full of grace and ideality and have had justice at the hands of the accomplished engravers. Mr. Frederick Dickman has done for "The Princess" his best work. He has in these drawings almost rid himself of the short-necked and fat-faced woman who has hitherto haunted his fancy, and has invested the creatures of Tennyson's imagination with a delicate beauty which adds a new charm to the text. Paper and printing are alike inviting, and the elaborate binding will catch the popular taste if not the eye of the fastidious booklover. The volume is one of the most engaging prepared for the holidays, and a fitting successor to the Boston firm's beautiful edition of "The Lady of the Lake."

IN THE COAL AND IRON COUNTIES OF NORTH CAROLINA. By P. M. Hale. 12mo, pp. 425. Raleigh: P. M. Hale, New-York: E. J. Hale & Son.

In this preface Mr. Hale states that for many years it has been his chief object to make North Carolina known to its own people. He adds that "prejudices will pass away with knowledge, and a united people will work with vigor to raise still higher a State of which they have learned that there is reason to be proud." The South will be wise if during the next decade she will keep out of politics, so far as possible, and devote herself to developing her own rich and varied resources. Hence every such book as this is heartily to be welcomed. Mr. Hale groups together a large number of facts and statistics to establish his proposition that North Carolina contains inexhaustible supplies of coal and iron of superior quality. Among the witnesses whose testimony he presents on this point are Dr. Emmett, at one time Geologist to our own State, and Dr. Kerr, who is now in charge of the Southern division of the United States Geological Survey. The work concludes with the census figures for North Carolina and an excellent map of the State.

New Publications.

A FASCINATING STORY OF CAVALRY LIFE IN INDIA. By THE TRIBUNE OF NEW YORK.

THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS. An account of a Catholic Sisterhood, written by a Protestant. See *The Tribune Heart*.

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